

causes in the agitated stream, the impulse would be communicated from neighborhood to neighborhood, until its vibrations would be felt in every corner of the State.

The deferred payment of the debt has been, by some, objected to, as an unjust imposition upon the succeeding generation. But who, it may be inquired, is to partake most largely of the benefit of the outlay? Surely the legatee to whom a rich inheritance is bequeathed, can have no just reason to complain that a mortgage is upon it for a tenth of its value. All that posterity can demand of us, and that it may well demand, is, that we should fairly improve the family inheritance; and it is not unreasonable that the inheritance itself should pay the expenses of the improvements.

The Convention are perfectly aware how much all men are creatures of habit, and that there is a startling association with infinity when they first begin to speak of millions; but there is a happy elasticity in the mind which enables it gradually to expand to the full and easy reception of the most extensive ideas. Let the people become acquainted with the vast advantages which an extensive system of internal improvement holds out to them, and the millions which it will take to produce these advantages will soon become familiar to their ears as household words. It is this capacity in the mind, together with its tendency to stretch itself to the full extent of the magnificent objects by which it is surrounded, upon which we found a strong argument in favor of our system. Its natural effect will be to set before the people the highest standards of arts, science and moral refinement, and they will instinctively elevate themselves to their enviable level.

The Convention would respectfully suggest to the Legislature that, in taking up this interesting subject, they should adopt the prudent course which both the committee and this Convention have found it necessary to pursue, and, while you adopt the general outlines of the plan, leave its details to be settled by an independent and disinterested board, to be raised by yourselves, under the light and instruction of proper engineers. The reasons for this course cannot fail to strike a body so intelligent as that which we address, and we will not weary your patience by pressing them upon you.

Gentlemen, we trust that your honorable body will act up to the crisis at which you have arrived; in fearless independence and noble liberality, meet the people half way in the generous spirit with which they approach you; seize the occasion which now presents itself to associate your names with one of the brightest eras in the history of your native State; and when, in future years, your sons shall point to the strong foundations of their country's wealth and glory, let them say, while their bosoms swell with filial pride, my father was one of that enlightened and independent Legislature, by whom they were laid. The Convention does not profess to be so far the agents of the people as to be able to act efficiently; but they may be well supposed to embody the wishes and opinions of a majority of the State, at least as great as forty-four is to twenty. With this claim to the attention of the Legislature, and pleading a cause which might well rely upon its intrinsic worth and deep importance for full investigation, this Convention, in behalf of the thousands of our citizens of the present day, of all sexes, ages and conditions, and the countless millions of unborn generations, and appealing to all the best principles and affec-